

CONSEQUENCES OF TEEN PREGNANCY

Personal, social, and medical costs are substantial for unintended pregnancy.

- Children of teen mothers are at greater risk of poverty, lower intellectual and academic achievement, and social problems. Poverty is a risk factor for child abuse and violence.
- Teen fathers and mothers complete fewer years of schooling which limits their earning potential.
- Teen mothers smoke more than other mothers. Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of low birth weight, SIDS, and long-term disability.

Additional copies available at:

<http://www.swwhd.wa.gov/Publications/Publctn2.html#Brochures>



For further information please contact
Southwest Washington Health District
Assessment and Research
(360) 397-8215
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Teen Pregnancy Resources and Links

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy:
<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/>

The Alan Guttmacher Institute (a reproductive health research and policy group):
<http://www.agi-usa.org/>

Washington State Department of Health
Adolescent Health Fact Sheets (Teen Pregnancy)
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/adolescenthealth.htm>

Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy
Prevention (for Researchers and Health
Educators, focus is effective interventions):
<http://www.etr.org/recapp/>

The Institute for Youth Development (non-profit
group that focuses on research on youth
development and risk behavior prevention):
<http://www.youthdevelopment.org/>

Data Sources:

Washington State, Department Of Health, Center
for Health Statistics. *Pregnancy and Induced
Abortion Statistics, 1980-2000*. Vista PHw 2.3.2.
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1998 WA State PRAMS Surveillance Report -
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Health Services, Research and Data Analysis
Division, *Medicaid Paid Maternal and Infant
Services, 2002*.

Boonstra, Heather, "Teen Pregnancy: Trends and
Lessons learned." *The Guttmacher Report on
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Contraceptive Technology, 17th Revised Edition,
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Search Institute. *Developmental Assets: A Profile
of Your Youth, Clark County*. February 2000.

Southwest Washington Health District

Teen Pregnancy

in Clark County 2002



*"The starting point of effective
child abuse prevention is
pregnancy planning."*

C. Everett Koop,
Surgeon General, 1986

Teen and unintended pregnancies are risk factors that can lead to severe outcomes. These include less academic achievement, lower social and economic status, higher rates of domestic violence, and child abuse. Teen parents are more likely to smoke, have low birth weight babies, and late prenatal care. For these reasons we focus public health efforts and information aimed at preventing teen pregnancy and unintended pregnancies in Clark County.

TRENDS IN TEEN PREGNANCY AND BIRTHS

Pregnancies are the total number of births plus abortions. In 2000 there were 245 teen (aged 15-17) pregnancies in Clark County; 142 or 58% resulted in live births.

Teen pregnancy rates have dropped significantly since 1980.

A 1999 national U.S. study revealed that the drop in teen pregnancy was due:

- One-fourth to increased abstinence, and,
- Three-fourths to changes in the behavior of sexually experienced teens choosing more effective contraceptive methods.

UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

Unintended pregnancies are either unwanted or mistimed at the time of conception. In Washington State in 1996-98:

- 37% of all pregnancies were unintended, 29% were mistimed, and 8% of pregnancies were unwanted.
- 65% of teen pregnancies (younger than 20 years of age) were unintended.

According to a 1999 Clark County Youth Assets Survey, one out of two 12th graders chose to abstain from sexual intercourse.

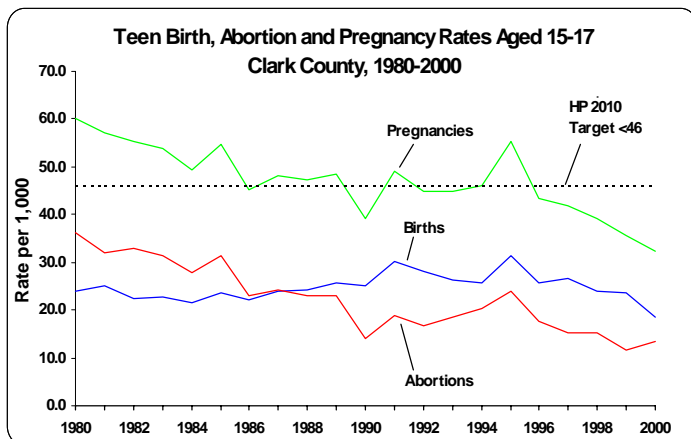
COST OF TEEN PREGNANCY

Births to teenagers are more likely to be publicly funded than births to older mothers.

In 2000 Medicaid paid for:

- 76% of births to 15-17 year old mothers in Clark County compared to 35% of all births.
- 68% of births to 15-17 year olds in Washington State compared to 31% of all births.
- The combined average Medicaid maternity and infant care cost in 2000 was \$11,927.

TEEN PREGNANCY RATES



Comparable 2000 Rates

(per 1,000 15-17 year old girls):

- Clark County: 32
- Washington State: 36
- Oregon State: 35

Year 2010 Healthy People Goal (objective 9-7):

- United States: < 46

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Delaying age of sexual intercourse and increasing contraceptive use are key to teen pregnancy prevention.

- Increase youth education and skills building on pregnancy prevention.
- Increase accessible teen reproductive health services.
- Increase parent training on communication with youth.